

Burglary of a Mortsafe from Britain, during which the cold war had reached a peak, when the defection of International scientists from the shelter of Allied Powers had become a tragic commonplace

A story arrived on a high-speed telegraph from the newspaper's executive that the front page could hold no more of the *Daily Express* in common with other newspapers, according the exploits of a 20-year-old gunman named Poole. Poole had shot a policeman dead and was defying a force of 200 armed officers at his home in Chatham. Within the hour the pulsating story of the Chatham had yielded place.

The Public Gets a Shock

The following morning the public already alarmed that atomic scientists, Dr. Otto Hahn and Pontecorvo—given Britain's secrets to Russia, was shocked by the that two diplomats had left the country. This was the first report in the *Daily Express*, omitting the of the diplomats until the Foreign Office would confirm them:

Scotland Yard officers and French detectives are hunting for two British Government employees who are believed to have left London with the intention of getting to Moscow.

According to a friend, they planned the journey to serve their idealistic purposes.

One report says that the two men were employed by Foreign Offices and there is a possibility that they may be important papers with MI6.

News of their plan was given to the authorities by the end, who said they expected him to go with them. They were to go to France, as it of holiday, and then make their way behind the Iron Curtain. The friend backed out.

Several experts have flown from London to France to work with the French police.

All French airports and frontiers are being watched. Skin-clad men are searching the Montmartre area of Paris, where it is easy for anyone to hide. It is understood that police are watching visitors to the Soviet Embassy, Paris.

In response to inquiries the Foreign Office made a statement the same morning. It named the diplomats and said they had been missing from their homes for thirteen days. This was the Foreign Office statement:

Two members of the Foreign Service have been missing from their homes since May 21. One is Mr. D. D. Maclean, the other Mr. G. F. de M. Burgess.

All possible inquiries are being made. It is known that they went to France a few days ago.

Mr. Maclean had a breakdown a year ago owing to strain, but was believed to have fully recovered.

Owing to their being absent without leave, both have been suspended with effect from June 1.

All that day and night many in Britain's newspapers investigated the backgrounds, careers, and movements of the men. Next morning the *Daily Express* published its finding:

Two missing Foreign Office officials, 38-year-old Donald Martin Maclean, head of the American Department, and

103-year-old Guy Burgess, 37, a Foreign Office secretariat were missing. Prime Minister, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, the Foreign Office, and the Home Office.

Telegrams signed with the name of Maclean and Burgess were received in their homes in England last night. The wire received by Mrs. Maclean, who was expecting a child next week, was 32 words long:

The telegram came from Paris. Friends checked them and do not believe that Maclean and Burgess were the senders. And the Foreign Office said today whether the wires were authentic.

Mr. Dean Acheson, U.S. Secretary of State, told reporters yesterday it would be a very serious matter if two missing British Foreign Office officials turned to Russian sympathies.

Lord Selsdon, Cabinet Minister, remarked today it was believed Burgess had a thorough knowledge of Anglo-American exchanges on such subjects as the Atlantic Pact, the Korean War and the Japanese Treaty.

Atlantic Pact discussions have covered secret plans.

As the facts piled up day by day and were reviewed in Britain's newspapers, all the world wondered:

Why should Donald Maclean, a charming and successful walk out of his post in 1951, of the Foreign Office, sail on his young wife expecting a baby, for the sake of a £1,000 (U.S.\$2,000) home in Epsom, Surrey, which he had moved into only seven months before?

What possessed him to commit that?

Something it became plain, that Burgess, the Oxford man, Burgess landed in Britain from nine months in America 18 days before Maclean, almost certainly in touch with Maclean.

What had Burgess done in America? That was further learned in 1951.

Despite the evidence, it cast little light on the ability, appeared more to the mystery than any simple or neurotic and perverted personalities.

For Burgess and Maclean had from Britain, when the cold war had reached its peak, when the defection of international scientists from the shelter of Allied Powers had become a tragic commonplace.

"Storehouse of Secrets"

Could it be that even in the most precious of hours, secrets the Foreign Office, there were men who would betray their country?

The official answer did not come for ten months. They came suddenly from the Foreign Office, deny, one Sunday.

And they came with a list of 100 names, because Vladimir Petrov, Soviet spy, who had fought in Australia, had published evidence about the diplomatic activities.

After a national outcry, no more information came from the Foreign Office on September 25, published a report concerning the disappearance of two former Foreign Office officials, Rebecca West, the novelist, who had married

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Maclean... was able to tell the Soviet regime how the western allies planned and worked together and how best their relations could be damaged and suspicion replace goodwill."

On Maclean. His hand injured, all the crucial inner wheels of the western alliance. He was able to tell the Soviet regime what the western allies planned and worked together, and how best their relations could be damaged and suspicion replace goodwill."

The *Daily Express* took the view that nobody should be penalised when the interests of British security were at stake. It would be better to reveal all weaknesses in the Foreign Office and end them than risk further disaster. The *Daily Express* even offered £1,000 (\$2,300) reward for evidence which would clear up the mystery—when it was a mystery. And, in April 1953, when there was speculation

on the role of the two men in the *Maclean* case, the *Daily Express* renewed its £1,000 offer.

In these pages the story of Burgess and Maclean was told. It was unfolded by the reporter of Fleet Street.

It was unfolded in the face of stern reticence, to be confirmed by the Foreign Office, which remained silent all the time.

And, knowing much of the truth, that security authority, that citadel of security, bungled the job of detaining Burgess and Maclean.

How and why?

Those questions probe the essence of the Great Soviet Secret.

CHAPTER

This Web Bubbles

THE VANISHING TRICK of Burgess and Maclean was, from the start, a source of wonder and contradictory speculation. It became essential to explore what was known of their characters and histories.

Only Francis de Moncy Burgess, a thick-set, handsome, blue-eyed bachelor, was born in Devonport, the son of Malcolm Kingsford de Moncy Burgess, a naval lieutenant.

He lost his father when young, his mother got married again to Lieut.-Colonel Jack Bassett, and this couple, now elderly, live in Arlington House, overlooking London's Green Park. Burgess was intended for the Navy and from Eton—in January 1925—he went to the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth. He was found to have defective eyesight and he returned to Eton in July 1927.

His master, Mr. E. W. Dobby, had written to him: "I am most awfully sorry to hear of my poor eyesight in the Navy. It has been made impossible by your eyesight. I shall be delighted to have you back again."

Burgess passed on to Cambridge, where he eventually took first in History at Trinity College. That was in 1933—but before then he had met Donald Duff Maclean.

Maclean, son of the Liberal leader, Sir Donald Maclean, a tall and sandy-haired, happy but imposing, was reading languages at Trinity Hall.

They became friends. They were both members of a Left-wing circle. And Maclean was to say later that Burgess had strong influence on him at that time.

Burgess rolled Communism and his tongue and spouted at anybody who would listen.

He goaded his friends with visions of the wrath to come when he and the Party had their way. But with enough liquor, he would concede dispensations to a favoured few.

He drank anything; he was careless about his appearance; the point of grubiness; he talked endlessly, and—very—brilliantly. And—the say, mockingly.

He was a destroyer of other men's faiths. His own was Marxism.

Mr. Herbert Morrison, who was Foreign Secretary at the time of the diplomats' defection, has said since the revelation that they were long-term agents:

"The fact that a person as a young man may have had

Communist political opinions at the University does not prove evidence that he is a Communist now or that he has a Communist future life."

True, the political climate of those times was not considered. There was not the same political fervour, the same leading, hunger, marches, the same enthusiasm for the Left, the fighting. Many idealistic young people did not know what to answer.

But nearly all temperate men were then imbued with patriotic fervour. Not so Burgess and Maclean.

And the Foreign Office, which had been so anxious of the men's programme, had now completely vanished. For the Wind had blown.

"Investigations into Burgess's past were conducted like Maclean's, and the Foreign Office was not told of his whereabouts. While Cambridge and the Left-wing circle he had been blithely renounced, he was not forced into a subsequent career of direct participation in the activities of Left-wing organisations."

The best comment on this came in a dispatch from Mr. Eden, Foreign Secretary, in October 1952, asking whether he was satisfied that the Foreign Office had received reports on the two men and their activities.

Mr. Eden replied: "I wish to inform you that I have received a copy of the Foreign Office's report on the full picture."

It was thus necessary to consider our picture.

Burgess did two years in the Foreign Service, then left and then joined the BBC. In 1939 he announced that he was going to the Nazi Party's Nuremberg Rally, which he did.

Mr. Connell, then editor of the *Left-wing*, wrote articles on the diplomats' defection, which later expanded into a book, *Agents of the Kremlin*, published by Catherine Press, Belgrade, in 1948, in the nations' "Fascist" phase.

Burgess was a man of many talents, and he had them with a talent for being brilliant.

One day Burgess, a tall, thin, dark man, went to

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How Burgess committed to a friend that he was not only a spy but a secret agent of the Communist Party

impressed. Guy Burgess confided to him that he was not only a member but also a secret agent of the Communist Party and he had them invited him to join in his work.

"His friend had talked with concern and the novelist felt that Burgess' behaviour was suddenly explained as a secret agent, he may have been told to investigate the British Fascist and he hoped to pass it on."

You would have thought that enough had been said by Burgess at this time to make him a doubtful recruit for Britain's inner bastions.

A "Secret" Job of Burgess

But not so. When wartime Burgess walked straight into an off-shoot section of the secret department known as M.I.6 (British agency for counter-intelligence overseas). He was given a civilian administrative job in what was known as the Special Organisation Executive.

This section dealt with sabotage in occupied territories, dropping agents by parachute, linking up with the Maquis and other resistance forces and with providing weapons.

Burgess himself and pooling adventures in this line, he was an organiser. The Special Organisation Executive got so big that it required a separate administration. It no longer exists—but its records are held by M.I.6.

While in Ministry infighting, Burgess discussed his work with a close friend—thereby breaking the rules of his Department. He said he was also concerned with the flow of secret information through Swiss channels.

Further details of his wartime job were given in the *Sunday Chronicle* of June 17, 1951:

"His job called for frequent trips to the headquarters in Buckinghamshire of the Political Warfare Executive, which ran the underground movements on the Continent.

"He soon made a name as a keen young official, and became one of the few men able to contact the Political Warfare Executive without question."

"He had such a good knowledge of sabotage, propaganda and spying that important security men kept in close touch with him."

The knowledge that Burgess was on secret work was available at the time to any agent with eyes to read. For a report of a court case appeared in the *London Star* on September 10, 1940.

He was charged at Marlborough Street with being under the influence of drink while driving a War Office car. The charge was dismissed on payment of costs after the defence solicitor had said:

"I do not want to introduce too much hush-hush but the accused is doing rather confidential work which necessitates travelling to a station 30 miles out of London."

"He has been working 14 hours a day and he had just been in an air-raid."

In 1941, the following year, Burgess rejoined the B.B.C. and remained three years in European propaganda departments. Both before and during the war Burgess was frank with B.B.C. contacts about his Left Wing opinions.

This is how Lord Hailsham put it in the *Sunday Graphic* of June 17, 1951:

"I knew Burgess. I met him at the B.B.C. when I made

several broadcasts on the Foreign Office's behalf. Mr. H. V. Neill was the Foreign Minister at the time. He was a very sensitive and civilised person."

"But he made no secret of his Left Wing opinions and frequently exposed in his broadcasts the Left Wing elements of the Labour Party."

"The last thing I should have wanted him to do was to go to his country. But surely that is the duty of a secret agent to make inquiries."

"Did not the Foreign Office know his sympathies?"

The answer, clearly, was No. In his propaganda work he was not allowed to do what he wanted to do, the job, once simple, became now

"we were training Communists."

In connection with the secret work he did for the Russians and the Poles he was sent to Moscow. He started out there as an expert on Russian affairs.

His companion, an American, went even further than Washington on the Continent.

And in 1944 Burgess was sent to America on a temporary basis, which ended in 1945. He then put on the Permanent Staff of the Foreign Office.



SUM BURGESS
The Post Office 1953

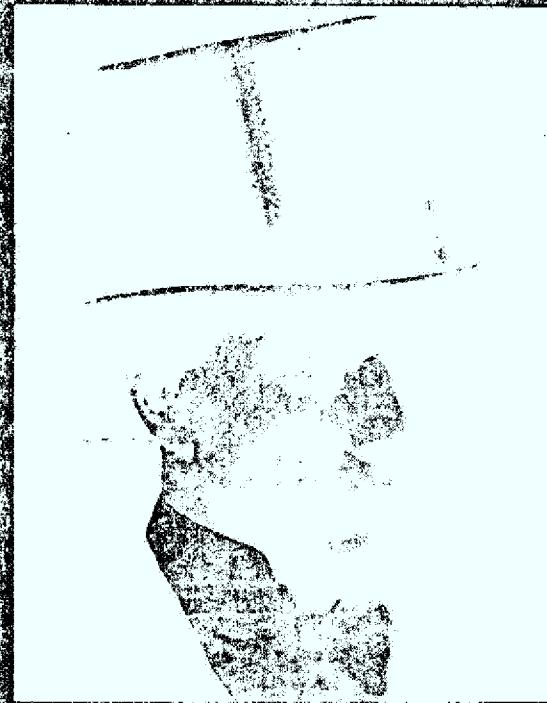
Burgess had been guilty of indiscreet talk about secret matter of which he had official knowledge. For this he was severely reprimanded

but before Burgess was put on the Permanent Staff of the Foreign Office he had been selected for a post that required a sense of discretion. In 1946 he became assistant private secretary to the Minister of State, the late Mr. Hector McNeil when Mr. McNeil was No. 2 at the Foreign Office.

Mr. Morrison, questioned as Foreign Secretary about Burgess's professional association with Mr. McNeil, said on July 15, 1951:

"Mr. Burgess was appointed to the office of the Minister of State on 31st December, 1946. He was transferred to the Foreign Department on 1st November, 1948."

The transfer took place in the normal course of routine



BURGESS AT ETON. His eyesight wasn't good enough for a naval career

and was intended to give Mr. Burgess experience in a political department."

Mr. Morrison added: "At that time there was nothing adverse, as far as we were aware, against Mr. Burgess."

But four years later, Mr. Morrison, in Opposition, was to say: "I am inclined to think that in a strictly limited number of cases—for as a whole our Civil Service is very fine, indeed excessive efforts are made to protect men against the natural consequences of incompetence or other faults."

"Quite apart from the question of improper imparting of secret information, the conduct of these two men in the course of their duties warranted the requirement of their resignations or dismissal from the Service at an earlier stage." Back in 1937 Burgess had formed a friendship with Jack Hewitt, a pudgy, bespectacled clerk and former ballet dancer. For 14 years they shared various flats in London. The flat they took was in New Bond Street, W.1., and this was Burgess's home when he disappeared.

They moved into this three-room flat early in 1949. A

picture of life in the flat was given by Mrs. Mary Maclean, a solicitor [lawyer] of 40, of 12, New Bond Street, in her *Discovery* of July 15, 1951, the report of the inquiry into the firm of solicitors.

"Soon after Burgess moved in there was a complaint from other tenants that bawdy parties, about 25 men and girls, throughout the night in the flat."

"He seemed to have a considerable number of girlfriends and they were always all male. I think that when he was with them he seemed to have some part of his body undressed. Sometimes it was his head, or one, then the other. I think he used to be in a sling."

"I told him about the complaints and he promised to quieten in future. He explained that his friends were a lot of entertaining folk who would certainly make a noise."

"I had trouble with him, too, in the flat. He was a bad payer and finally payments were made to him by a firm of Holborn solicitors."

"For a while things were quiet. Then one morning in the flat above rang us in a panic. Early one cold morning she had been awoken by her baby, who was in tears and trembling."

"The noise from the flat below was impossible to describe. Soon afterwards an ambulance drove up and a man with his head and arm bandaged was taken to a hospital on a stretcher."

"Quite obviously there had been a fight."

"I rang the hospital and was told that he had fractured skull, a broken jaw, and arm injuries and was on the danger list."

Jack Hewitt said later: "After 1945 Mr. Burgess and Burgess was thrown down the stairs by a fellow [John Maclean]. This was not Maclean."

Charges of Drunken Driving

After a spell in hospital Burgess went to work in Ireland and appeared at the Dublin District Court charged with driving a car while drunk. This is the beginning of proceedings from the London Evening Standard of May 5, 1949:

"Charges of driving a car while drunk and driving without reasonable care against Guy Burgess, 31, formerly of the British Foreign Office, whose address was given as the Reform Club, Pall Mall, were dismissed at the Dublin District Court."

"Burgess in evidence said that he had been drinking in England, and after some days in hospital had made his mother to come to Ireland and the two had come to Wicklow."

"Dismissing the charges, which were preferred in Grafton Street on Wednesday night, Mr. C. Lynne said that Burgess was a man of 31, who appeared to be over 40."

The White Paper of 1949, which the authorities informed the Foreign Office that they had while on holiday abroad, Burgess had been found to talk about secret matter. For this he was severely reprimanded. For this he was severely reprimanded.

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1. August 1950, Burgess went to Washington

If Burgess talked indiscretely, he was plainly not the ordinary type of trained spy. And you might have expected that he would be regarded as pretty valueless to his Russian masters.

But Rebecca West has pointed out that Burgess may have played a clever role. "All of secret matters behave indiscretely—and people will never suspect that you are a spy."

And what then? Why, in August 1950, Burgess was appointed Second Secretary at the British Embassy in Washington.

His views on America and the Americans are therefore pertinent: They come to light in this quotation from the Hon. (now Sir) Harold Nicolson, author and critic, former M.P. and former diplomat in the *Daily Express* of June 14, 1951:

"He hated Americans. Before he went to Washington, Burgess often spoke of this, and I told him he would change his mind when he met his Americans."

Burgess told his friend, Hewitt, before he sailed: "If I don't like America, I shall make a personal friend of Paul Robeson and get thrown out on two counts"—Robeson being both a Negro and a Communist sympathiser.

Burgess's Record in the U.S.

Burgess was almost as good as his word. In so far as a diplomat can be thrown out of a friendly country, he was thrown out of America.

Within six months his telegrams were suspect as biased. He was not popular. He drank heavily, and in March 1951 Governor John Hartlieb of Virginia complained to the State Department that Burgess in a coupe had been stopped at 80 m.p.h. three times in an hour.

The third time followed an accident. Burgess was not driving. A hitchhiker he had picked up, a man without a car licence, was at the wheel.

An English visitor scolded Burgess for anti-British talk. And then—as the White Paper relates—he was reprimanded for leaving confidential papers behind.

At the Ambassador's Office, Olave Maclean, asked the Foreign Office to remove him. He was removed. He arrived back in London on May 7, 1951, a year after Maclean had returned from Cairo.

Two days after Burgess returned in the *Queen Mary* he met Cyril Connolly and told him that Washington was "absolutely frightful" because of Senator McCarthy.

"Terrible atmosphere," said Burgess. "All these purges."

Following that his Foreign Office days might be ending, Burgess applied for a post on a Fleet Street newspaper.

He was interviewed by the Foreign Office and asked to resign. The White Paper says that steps were being considered in the event that he refused to resign.

While the steps were being considered—Burgess vanished with Maclean.

For a summing up of the character of Guy Burgess let us turn to that interview given by Harold Nicolson to the *Daily Express*:

"He publicly announced his sympathies with Communism and yet he secretly disliked the Russians. He thought they were cruel and brutal. A real deal."

"He was a most indiscreet talker. He said anything that came into his head and cared nothing about who heard him."

"Of course he was a heavy drinker. He drank anything

in any order and when he had a drink he didn't think very much. He cared nothing about values. He was a complete nihilist."

Despite that he was chairman of a committee of inquiry. When he was with the B.B.C. he was a Departmental Week-end Westminster for friends. It was his idea.

That was how he met Heege, the girl who later became his sister of State. He made him his private secretary.

When Burgess was sober he was a magnificent talker. When he was drunk he talked nonsense. He was a kind man and a good friend. I don't think he would do anything dishonest. But he was so terribly impulsive."

Rebecca West summed up in 1951: "I am sure he had a very good time."

She wrote: "He was a charming, skillful, secret, delightful companion and destined for success in the world of politics."

She added: "Both Maclean and Burgess were homosexual, according to their friends. But it made it still more difficult to like them."

Other views of Burgess have been expressed. He was fond of luxury and display and fast cars. He liked to breakfast in bed.

He had indispensible talents of a diplomatic nature. He was an expert in many languages and had a knowledge of many countries.

His reading was omnious, and he had a knowledge of English literature.

Circle of Leftists and Stalinists

He remained in the United States because he would talk to anyone and about anything.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicolson had been there for two years. He had got a post as a reporter for the *Times* in June 1950. He had been a member of the Foreign Office from 1930 to 1938, and while there he had been a member of the Communist Party.

We met a lot of Americans there, and we spent a month there. While I was at the Embassy in Washington, he was pro-Communist.

We met a lot of Americans there, and he was pro-Communist.

I asked him if he had any friends in the Foreign Office. He made no reply.

The Foreign Office had a lot of Communists. Made by Burgess to understand. When he was a temporary Civil Service recruit, he was taken on the Foreign Office staff in 1930, in the usual routine of the Foreign Office.

Not unnatural that the Foreign Office members had an opportunity to meet Communists. Jean Maclean pointed out that the Foreign Office, Morrison and the Foreign Office were the third largest office of Government.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicolson did not know whether the Foreign Office was a Communist office.

People Maclean's British idea has now moved forward with speed. The creases of failure in his diplomatic career

of the affiliations or members of the Foreign Service like Burgess, who joined the Service during the war when we were fighting as allies of Soviet Russia? Has he considered that aspect of the matter?

Mr. Morrison: Yes, Sir. Security checks are made on members of the Foreign Service on their appointment and, if proves necessary, from time to time.

Mr. Duncan Sandys: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether, when the last security check up of officials took place the Foreign Office were satisfied that Mr. Burgess had no Communist associations?

Mr. Morrison: I did not imply that there is a regular and systematic week-by-week check up of all Foreign Office officials and I should not like it to have come to that. Indeed, I do not think that the Department deserves such a check-

when, finally, the affair came right into the open Mr. Morrison revealed that he had not been quite as complacent as that.

He said in September 1955 referring to the "excessively job" of a Foreign Secretary: "I made a suggestion that there should be a suitable form of inquiry into the work of the Secretary and the general organisation of the office eight days after Mr. Sandys—who is now Minister of Hous-

ing—questioned Mr. Morrison and Kenneth Younger, Socialist Member of Parliament for

He asked: Had the Foreign Office been satisfied with Mr. Burgess' leaving associations with Communists?

Said Mr. Younger: "The Foreign Office were satisfied with Mr. Burgess' leaving associations with Communists but there was a question which threw doubt on his reliability."

Question: There had recently been a government inquiry into Civil Servants with Communist affiliations. How did Burgess escape the scrutiny? Was nobody in the Foreign Office subjected to the scrutiny?

Mr. Younger: "It would not be correct to say that a security check was made on Mr. Burgess. Some time ago, it was negative in its result."

But, as we found, Guy Burgess was a man with a heavy drinker and a gross sinner, a rowdy, a pervert, a most unreliable friend of Communists and a professional spy, a secret agent.

This was the man who, landing from America, was anxious to get in touch with Donald Maclean. It is clear that he told Maclean precipitately that they had many things in common.

To estimate that vital factor, we must consider Donald Duart Maclean.

CHAPTER

This Was Maclean

SIR DONALD MACLEAN was 33 years old on the day he vanished. He was a son of one of the most illustrious families in the country.

Father, Sir Donald Maclean, first entered Parliament as Liberal member for Bath in 1903. After thecoupon election of 1918, when Asquith and many of his lieutenants were defeated, Sir Donald became chairman of the 18 Independent MPs later to be known as the "Wee Frees."

When Ramsay MacDonald formed the National Government in 1931, Sir Donald became President of the Board of Education and, after the election that year, retained the post and given a seat in the Cabinet.

His personal prestige was immense, so that when he died in 1932 King George V sent this telegram to his widow: "I regret not only the loss of one of my Ministers but also of one for a quarter of a century has been a distinguished and great figure in the political life of this country."

Thus the defection of Donald Duart Maclean was a grief and misery not only to his family but to all those who admired Donald Maclean and his activities in public life.

The White Paper asserts: "Since Maclean's disappearance his examination of his background has revealed that during his student days at Cambridge he had expressed Communist sympathies. But there was no evidence that he had ever been a member of the Communist Party and indeed, on leaving the University, he had outwardly renounced his earlier Communist views."

And Lord Reading, Joint Under-Secretary for Foreign Af-

fairs, stated boldly in October 1952: "Mr. Maclean had fulfilled his official duties satisfactorily up to the time of his disappearance."

We shall see.

Despite Maclean's Latvian upbringing, with its marked increases of stature in his diplomatic career, he was appointed Head of the American Department of the Foreign Office.

Maclean was posted to Paris in 1938 and sent abroad. He was regarded as the golden boy of the Foreign Service but he drank, he said, and needed an occasional orgy.

In the routine of many young diplomats, at Paris, spent evenings on the Left Bank with any character. In the Folies de Flore he met Velinda Marling. She was a tall, slim, smart, dark and attractive American girl, 21 years old. She had a job with the American Embassy. She had a thick coat of solid comfort.

War came. And in 1940, with the Germans closing in on him, Donald Maclean married Velinda Marling.

Before they wed she wrote: "I've been writing to you by Geoffrey House, Paris Correspondent of the *Times*, in his book, *The Macleans of British Diplomacy*.

She wrote: "If you are ever in Paris, come to me. Why don't you have a good time? I am here to help you to get safely to bed."

Maclean's friends home and abroad were shocked

Maclean returned to the Foreign Office for duty—and promptly appointed Head of the American Department

nd began to swing it wildly round his head—threatening, only in a kind of drunken fury, to smash the gaffir's skull. Another member of the party, also a Secretary at the Embassy, tried to restrain Donald and to take the weapon from him. Donald refused to give it up, and the two men struggled for it, slipped and rolled down the bank on to the rudimentary wooden jetty. There they landed with Donald on top and the rifle in between them—and the other man broke his leg.

Transporting the injured man, who was in great pain, back to Cairo provided a difficult problem for the friends on whom they had intended to call refused to open the door to them.

Two months later Maclean excelled even his own standards riotous conduct.

A Cocktail Party—and What Followed

Geoffrey Hoare's account, to be quoted later in the House Commons, was this:

"Donald had a writer friend of his earlier days staying with him, an uninvited and unwanted guest so far as Melinda was concerned, who became his drinking companion; neither really required encouragement."

"On the evening of Monday, May 8, the Macleans and their two guests were invited to a cocktail party and later to an evening party.

"All four went to the cocktail party but afterwards Melinda, who was feeling unwell—she was again pregnant and again to have a miscarriage—went back to bed, the friend went off to an engagement of his own, and Donald and Harriet went on to the other party.

"Around 2 a.m. he returned, woke up his friend who had come in earlier and gone to bed, and they went off together in search of amusement."

"They visited a cabaret or two and then, just as dawn was breaking, knocked violently on the door of a flat occupied by another member of the Embassy in a large apartment house not far from the American Embassy."

"Much against his will, their friend let them in and they demanded drinks. Eventually realising there was little more he could do, he found them a bottle of whisky and returned to bed."

"When he got up the next morning, they were still there, very drunk, so he left them and went off to the Embassy."

"Some time during the day they sobered up just sufficiently to remember that a girl who worked as librarian at the American Embassy and whom they had met at a party a few days before, had a flat in the same building."

"There was no drink left in the flat they were then occupying, so they staggered up the stairs, knocked at the door, pushed their way past the astonished suffragist, and took possession of the otherwise unoccupied apartment."

"They helped themselves to what liquor they could find and then proceeded to break in the furniture."

"Content with their work, they returned to Donald's colleague's flat, collapsed on to a bed and again fell asleep."

"It was there that Melinda found them in the early evening after various telephone calls had established where they had got to."

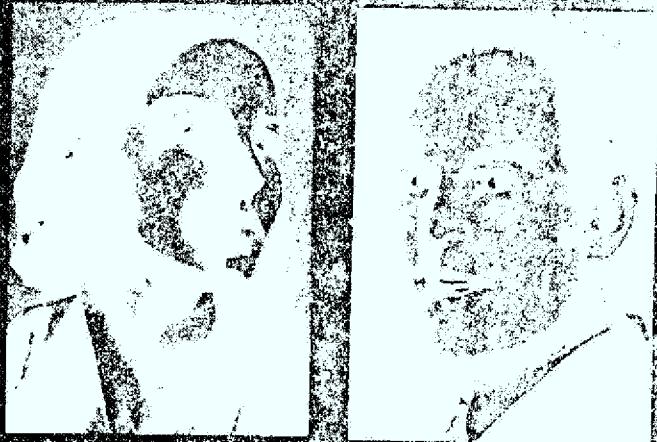
"With Harriet's help she half carried, half dragged a com-

pletely sodden Donald down the stairs and in a taxi drove him home. Harriet then went back to the flat with the suffragist, removed the friend and took him home."

Mr. Maclean called next day on the Ambassador's son to tell Campbell, and informed her that her husband had been home at once on sick leave. On the return of his father, while with his mother, Lady Maclean, in Oxford.

His mother never ceased to believe, if this was true, that connection Rebecca West has with the Macleans. Was on the most affectionate terms with certain members of his family, and these relatives were genuinely astonished when he first put to them after his departure that he had been a Soviet agent.

"Throughout 20 years he had kept up between them and himself an unbroken barrier of deceit."



MRS. MELINDA MACLEAN DONALD MACLEAN
she was American an early picture

While Maclean lived with his mother in Oxford, he was described as looking as if he had been sitting up in a tunnel. He visited a woman psychiatrist to be treated for his "breakdown."

Geoffrey Hoare disclosed a letter from Mrs. Maclean to her sister, saying:

"Donald is still pretty confused and vague about himself and his desires, but I think when he gets settled he will find a new security and peace of hope so. He has had no drinking bouts since I have been back, but I know that the root of the trouble is still not cleared away."

"He is still going to R. [the psychiatrist] and is definitely better. She is still baffled about the moods he side which comes out when he is drunk and think hostility in general to women."

Then on November 8, 1950, after being sighted again, he returned to the Foreign Office for duty and was promptly appointed Head of the American Department.

This appointment, under the circumstances, was the subject of comment in the House of Commons. When Mr. Eden was asked:

Following a statement by Mr. Hoare, when the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Eden, said: "I have not yet fully recovered from my breakdown and then he remarked that when he was appointed Head of the American Department."

"Maclean was now a Foreign Office chief. But he spoke bitterly to his friends about Britain's colonies in the Far East, and said they should all be given up."

"The right hon. Gentleman knows that is perhaps the heaviest and most onerous post in the Foreign Office at the present time."

"Were his advisers absolutely satisfied that when they made their decision Mr. Maclean really had re-

Mr. Morrison: There was medical evidence that he had recovered. I would not quite accept the description of the American Department in the way the right hon. Gentleman gave it."

Maclean was now a Foreign Office chief. But he spoke bitterly to his friends about Britain's colonies in the Far East and said they should all be given up.

And then a friend called on Civil Connolly and reported that Maclean had asked him: "What would you do if I told you I was a Communist agent?"

Maclean added: "Well, I would not do much."

Next day the incident became public.

In April 1951, according to Comptroller and Auditor General

John Maclean, who was acting Assistant Secretary of the American State Department official who was instrumental in covering Maclean. I am the English Husband

There were these two men, Burgess and Maclean, both neurotic, perverts, both with a history of Communism, both

pathetic, both boasting at some time of espionage.

And on May 26 1951, they vanished together from the

sight of the western world.

Was the Foreign Office bewildered at the disappearance?

The Foreign Office would not say. When

It is time now to be what the Foreign Office

is doing.

CHAPTER

SECURITY IN ACTION

ON FEBRUARY 2, 1950, while Maclean was still in Cairo, double Burgess was still in the Far Eastern Department of the Foreign Office and a day after the Foreign Office had its first hint of a leakage—the famous momentous event in the history of British security.

Dr. Klaus Fuchs, a German, was arrested in London and charged at Bow Street. And now recall the date of Maclean's breakdown in Cairo. March 1950, the month Fuchs was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment.

Was Maclean, round the bend, with worry lest Fuchs talk and incriminate him?

And is that so far fetched? When it is remembered that Maclean was at Trinity Hall with that other atom spy, Dr. Nunn Cambridge at the time stayed a close friend of Nunn May? We shall examine these and other links. But first let us see how the security authorities approached the problem of a known leakage of information, a leakage which was to culminate in the open defection of the diplomats.

This is the relevant passage in the White Paper:

In January 1949 the security authorities received a report that certain Foreign Office information had leaked to the Soviet authorities some years earlier. The report amounted to little more than a hint and it was at the time impossible to attribute the leak to any particular individual. Highly secret but widespread and protracted enquiries were begun by the security authorities and the field of suspicion had been narrowed by mid-April 1951 to two or three persons. From the beginning of May Maclean had come to be regarded as the principal suspect.

There was, however, even at that time, no legally admissible evidence to support a prosecution under the Official Secrets Act. Arrangements were made to ensure that information of exceptional secrecy and importance should not come into his hands.

In the meantime the security authorities arranged to

investigate his activities and contacts, to obtain his true background, knowledge and of possible espionage information which could be used as evidence in a prosecution.

On May 25, the then Secretary of State, Mr. Morrison, announced in a speech that the security authorities should question Maclean.

In reading this decision it must be remembered that such questioning might provide the security authorities with a voluntary statement from Maclean which could be used in a prosecution on the strength of which only the security authorities could be sure of his guilt or innocence. In that eventuality would have been free to make arrangements to leave the country and the authorities would have had no legal power to stop him.

Everything, therefore, depended on the interview. And the security authorities were anxious to be as fully prepared as was humanly possible.

They were also anxious that Maclean should be held, held, held, should be searched and that there should be a reason for delaying the proposed interview until Mrs. Maclean, who was then pregnant, was known to be away from home.

It was now clear that, despite of the warning given by the authorities, Maclean must have been in the country for some time before his disappearance and his investigation.

One explanation may be that he had been no longer a double agent. It is also possible that he had been a double agent all along. Or he may have been a traitor.

Searching for the evidence involved a difficult interview. It was made difficult by the fact that the information was obtainable only under the most lenient conditions of disclosure and prosecution.

Tatfield is in S.M.

Randolph Churchill: "A passport can be confiscated without explanation. It is disingenuous of the Government to affect the contrary."

"Maclean's absence" did not become known to the authorities until the morning of Monday, May 28.

Burgess was on leave and under no obligation to report his movements.

Maclean then had become a principal suspect. But what of surveillance was this, as practised by Britain's security authorities?

Randolph Churchill wrote in the *London Evening Standard*:

"Even when Mr. Morrison had agreed that Maclean should be questioned, the security authorities decided to take no immediate action as they wished to wait till Mrs. Maclean had left her house to have a baby before they searched it for incriminating evidence."

"Are M.I.5 [British agency for internal security] really incapable of searching anything except an empty house? Would it have been beyond their wit to have induced one of the Maclean servants to have quit their employment and to have introduced their own agent into the house?"

"This would not only have achieved the object of the search but would have provided that surveillance at his country home which the White Paper professes could not have been undertaken without arousing Maclean's suspicions."

"Another point of crucial import arises in this connection. If there is danger of surveillance arousing a suspect's apprehensions and if it is thought that by withholding top-secret matter from him he may be prompted to flee, it is surely an elementary maxim of counter-espionage that the suspect's apprehensions be deliberately aroused at a moment when he, his friends and his haunts are all under the closest observation."

"If the suspect is guilty he may well give himself away completely."

To this the White Paper's answer is that "the only means of stopping Maclean from leaving the country is the most flagrantly misleading statement" contained in the White Paper.

A passport can be confiscated without explanation. It is disingenuous of the Government to affect the contrary. The *Times* found many contradictions and obscurities in the White Paper in regard to the security services.

At one point it follows the previous contention that Maclean, after his riotous behaviour in May 1950, was given a not very important job in the Foreign Office. Although head of the American Department, he was not dealing with the major problems of Anglo-American relations.

But after this comforting suggestion that nothing need be done, there comes the statement that once Maclean suspected arrangements were made for him, "information of exceptional value and importance" should come into his hands.

The paper then quotes from the White Paper the circumstances of the Maclean affair in England.

At one point it says that Maclean "had no desire to go abroad" as though the authorities had made a mistake of the authorities who would have used them. At another point it declares that "politeness will induce him to go abroad at any time."

Again, the paper contains no suggestion that Maclean was suspected of being a spy and that, in the course of his stay in America, he had been followed and put on the track by British agents. Maclean, White says, rectified.

CHAPTER V

They Vanish

THE FIRST HINT that Guy Burgess was in some sort of panic came in a letter to his friend Jack Hewit. Burgess wrote:

9 am Tuesday last
May 1st 1951
- 4. 1/2 p.m. 1st May
I said to the Queen Mary
leaving on the 1st May

"I am terrified that there may be a war very seriously and for the first time. And that I sail on the Queen Mary leaving on the 1st May."

On May 7, 1951, Guy Burgess landed at Southampton. His friends learned that he had struck a new friendship in

the *Queen Mary*—one that was to play a role in the disappearance of the diplomat less than three weeks later.

Burgess had met and befriended a young American student named Bernard Miller. And Burgess took Miller along when he intended to go with Miller to France on Monday, the date of their sailing. He arranged for him to join him in Paris.

Miller meantime stayed at the Green Park Hotel in a cadillac. Burgess stayed at his own flat in the Strand with Hewit.

Hewit said later that soon after Burgess arrived at his flat he spoke of a young married friend in the States and telephoned Lady Maclean and asked her when she could be in touch with Sir Donald.

Significantly, Burgess still had his telephone number at this time. He had not yet been given a telephone number at the Foreign Office.

Burgess ate 3000 of the 4 million lire in cash he had brought with him. He had also lost £71319.601 Guy left the oil lamp and his briefcase. But Hewit did not know whom he had given the briefcase to.

On the night of May 24, Burgess telephoned Stephenson.